under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over <u>Bonomi</u> in view of <u>Nguyen</u> '437. These rejections are respectfully traversed on the grounds that the patent to <u>Bonomi</u> does not qualify as prior art against the subject application.

A certified English translation of Applicants' Priority Document No. 6-010083 was submitted on October 5, 1998. It is respectfully submitted that the priority document, which was filed on January 31, 1994, fully supports Applicants' independent claims.

More specifically, support for independent Claims 62 and 76 can be found, for example, in the first embodiment shown in Figures 1 and 2 and disclosed beginning in paragraph 11 of the '083 priority document. Support for independent Claims 77 and 86 can be found in the second embodiment of the '083 priority document shown in Figures 3 and 4 and discussed beginning in paragraph 20.

Accordingly, since Applicants' priority document supporting the independent claims predates the U.S. filing date of <u>Bonomi</u>, it is respectfully submitted that <u>Bonomi</u> does not qualify as prior art against the subject claims. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims based on the <u>Bonomi</u> patent are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner takes the position that Applicants' '083 priority document does not fully support the independent claims, it is respectfully requested that the particular features alleged not to be supported be individually identified.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

77.   (Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a) input means for inputting image data encoded by using intra-picture coding and inter-picture coding, wherein [a picture subjected to] the intra-picture coding is forcedly executed in a circle of a predetermined number of [pixels exists in the encoded image data] pictures;

b) instruction means for instructing editing;

c) decoding means for decoding a part of the encoded image data input by said input means, in accordance with the output of said instruction means, wherein said decoding means decodes the encoded image data in units of the predetermined number of pictures;

d) editing means for editing the image data [decoded] processed by said decoding means; and

e) encoding means for encoding the image data [edited] processed by said editing means.

86.   (Amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

[a)] inputting image data encoded by using intra-picture coding and inter-picture coding, wherein [a picture subjected to] the intra-picture coding is forcedly executed in a circle of a predetermined number of [pixels exists in the encoded image data] pictures;

[b)] instructing editing;

[c)] decoding a part of the encoded image data input in said [step a)]

input step, in accordance with the instruction in said [step b)] instructing step, wherein said [step

c)] decoding step decodes the encoded image data in units of the predetermined number of

pictures;

[d)] editing the image data [decoded] processed in said [step c)]

decoding step; and

[e)] encoding the image data [edited] processed in said [step

d)] editing step.